



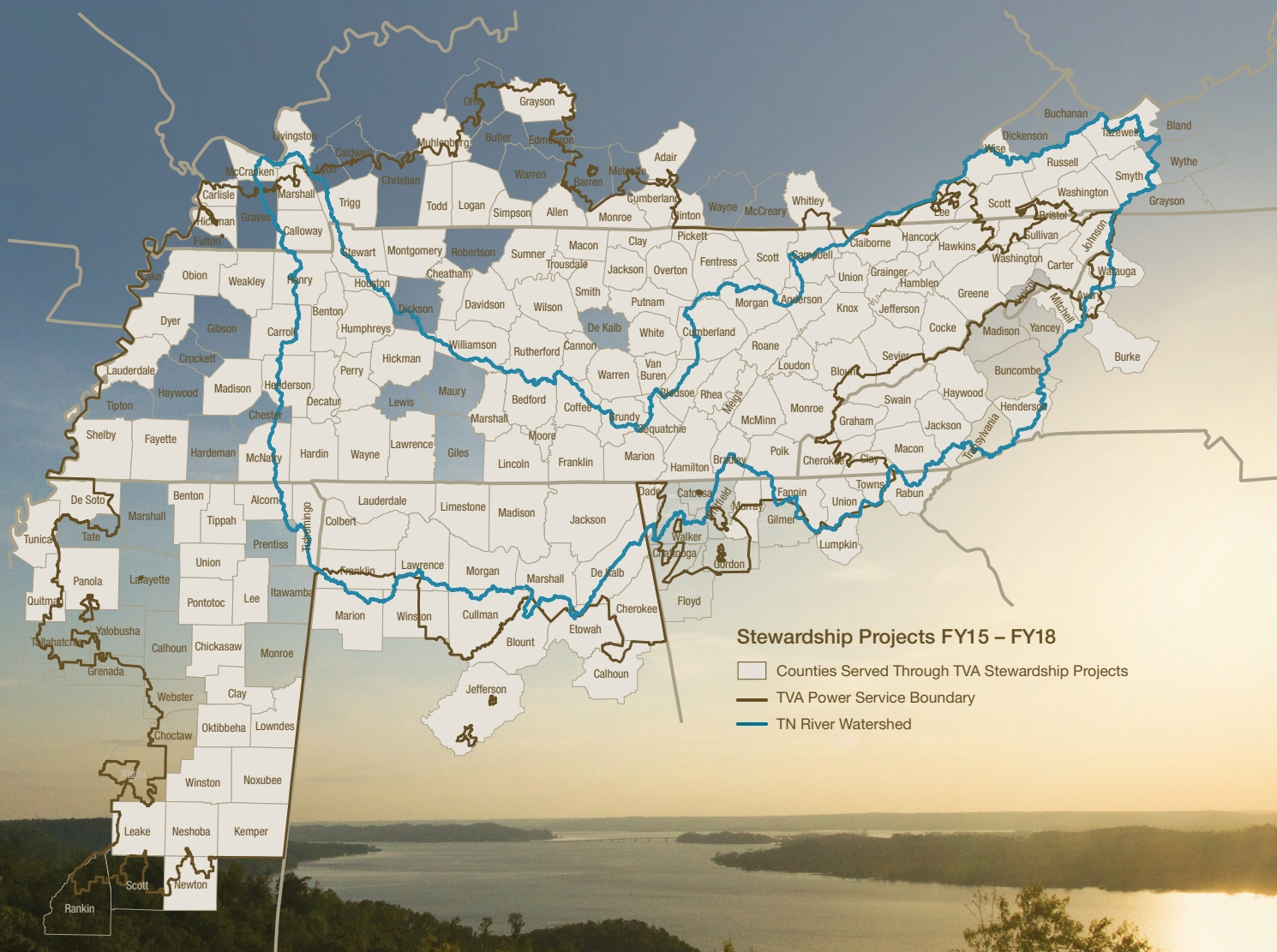
# TVA Stewardship

2019



# TVA STEWARDSHIP

## Serving the Valley



### FOCUS AREAS

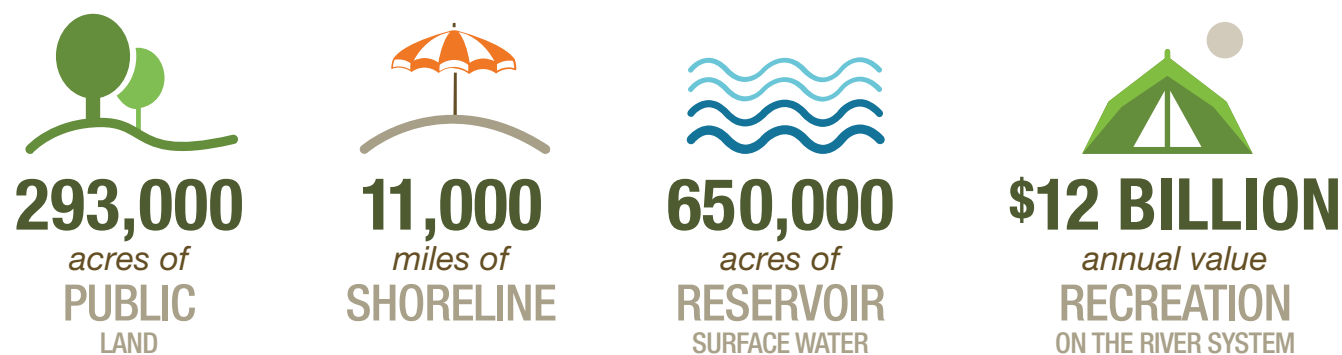
Reservoir Lands Planning · Section 26a & Land Use Agreements · Public Land Protection  
 Land & Habitat Stewardship · Nuisance & Invasive Species Management  
 Cultural Resources Management · Water Resource Stewardship · Recreation  
 Ecotourism · Public Outreach & Information



Dear Valley Neighbor:

We are excited to share with you TVA's stewardship projects planned for 2019 in the Tennessee Valley. This 2019 TVA Stewardship Booklet includes TVA's major stewardship projects for this year, divided into 10 focus areas we use to talk about our work.

Protecting, preserving and improving the Tennessee River system and its public lands across the beautiful Tennessee Valley is at the core of TVA's stewardship mission. In its earlier years, TVA championed programs like reforestation, fertilizer development and agricultural assistance to help the impoverished Southeast. Now—through expanding initiatives in recreation, habitat enhancement, ecotourism, conservation and more—TVA's stewardship commitment continues to be a vital factor in the success and growth of the entire Tennessee Valley region.



TVA's stewardship strategy is implemented through its Natural Resources organization, which is committed to balancing competing demands and acting as a catalyst for collaboration. TVA's Natural Resources teams work to:

- Create and sustain destinations for recreation and opportunities for learning and research.
- Protect and enhance biological, cultural and water resources, and uphold TVA's programmatic interests through integrated management of the Tennessee River system and public lands.
- Assist water-based community development with technical support, land agreements, permitting, planning, regulations, guidelines and enforcement.

We feel fortunate to work with many great partners across the region. Collaborative efforts to successfully manage public lands and waters ensure our resources and recreational lands will be available today and for future generations. Stewardship is part of TVA's mission of service to make life better for the people of the Tennessee Valley. It's a mission we believe in — and one we look forward to continuing for decades to come.

Bucky Edmondson  
Director, TVA Natural Resources



# Reservoir Lands Planning

TVA's Reservoir Land Management Plans direct how TVA manages its public land on a reservoir-by-reservoir basis—and help TVA make decisions about how we use the public lands under our stewardship. The land planning process is a systematic method of identifying and evaluating suitable land uses, and assigns land use allocation categories—or “zones”—to parcels of public land, reflecting their best use and communicating to the public what they can expect to see happening where.

Reservoir lands planning is the process by which land is allocated between competing and sometimes conflicting uses. Reservoir lands planning guides TVA management decisions on natural resources and property administration. Reservoir land management plans assign a land use category or ‘zone’ for each individual parcel of land, which provide a framework for how TVA intends to manage its public land.

## Updates to Reservoir Land Management Plans

PROJECT LEAD: KELLY BAXTER

TVA uses reservoir land management plans as a tool to manage the 293,000 acres of public land under its stewardship. TVA in 2018 worked on proposed updates to a portion of the Watts Bar Reservoir Land Management Plan and is reviewing the Tellico Reservoir Land Management Plan. Land plans are updated in an

order that considers the age of the current plan, known deficiencies, and any developing trends that warrant potential changes. Updates to land plans allow TVA to respond to new issues and changes in conditions and circumstances while identifying and evaluating the most suitable use of public land. These important land use decisions are key to helping TVA strike a balance for the overall health, economic development and recreation opportunities of our reservoir land.

# Section 26a Permitting and Land Use Agreements

The lands and shorelines along the rivers and reservoirs within the Tennessee River watershed are special places. Section 26a of the TVA Act and the land use processes associated with it help us keep them that way. Our goal is to protect these resources while supporting access to the public lands and waters we all enjoy. We are here to help you with the necessary approvals for your waterfront project.

## 26a Awareness Campaign

PROJECT LEAD: MILLI WARREN

In the TVA Act, Section 26a requires the public to obtain a permit from TVA for construction projects and other alterations along the shoreline to ensure these activities don't affect TVA's ability to manage the waters within the Tennessee River watershed. This targeted media campaign will continue in order to help get the word out to critical stakeholders about how Section 26a works and let people know that they should contact TVA before commencing any shoreline construction activities.

## 26a Realtor Workshops

PROJECT LEAD: MILLI WARREN

TVA will continue this popular outreach campaign to help realtors better understand TVA's permitting requirements for using TVA public lands. These popular workshops provide realtors with the knowledge they need to help guide clients who are purchasing lakefront property.



# Public Land Protection

Although a large portion of TVA land is undeveloped—that is, intentionally left in the most wild state possible—these areas need protection and improvement to preserve natural and cultural resources and to ensure a good experience for users. TVA manages site access, especially in heavily-used areas, removes litter and invasive plants, and takes steps to minimize user impacts. We also make sure our public land is well-marked so you can easily find it and use it. Our work helps to ensure these public lands can be preserved and available for future generations.

## Public Land Protection Efforts

**PROJECT LEAD: TYLER FERGUSON**

TVA will proactively address potential public land concerns by conducting activities and outreach to support public land protection, and will collect reservoir information for specific issues.

## Boundary Marking

**PROJECT LEADS: TAMMY MCCOY, KENLEY AUSTIN  
AND GARRY CHAPPELLE**

Caring for TVA land starts with knowing where our property ends and others' begins. In 2019, we will continue to re-establish and clearly mark TVA public land property boundaries across the Tennessee Valley. New paint and improved signage mean we can be better neighbors to those who share a boundary with us and help visitors navigate TVA public property.

## Keep the Tennessee River Beautiful

**PROJECT LEAD: PUBLIC OUTREACH STAFF**

TVA is continuing its partnership with the non-profit organization Keep the Tennessee River Beautiful in hosting river cleanups at locations along the Tennessee River not reached by other local efforts. Keep the Tennessee River Beautiful assists with supplies and coordination for cleanups on Tennessee River waterways. Adopt-a-River-Mile is an outreach program also offered by Keep the Tennessee River Beautiful to encourage local organizations to adopt their own river miles to improve.

## Reservoir and Community Cleanups and Greenups

**PROJECT LEAD: PUBLIC OUTREACH STAFF**

This initiative supports traditional volunteer cleanups, recycling efforts and litter prevention activities by partners across the TVA power-service area. The project will also fund bags and gloves for TVA-led cleanups. All approved requests must support TVA Natural Resources objectives and provide clear public benefit.

## Natural Resources Maintenance and Inventory Project

**PROJECT LEADS: ANTHONY SUMMITT AND MARK MORRISSEY**

TVA will complete the second year of the Maintenance and Inventory pilot project. The purpose of the project is to identify all existing Natural Resources assets, provide a geospatial reference for each asset and identify the condition of the assets. Natural Resource assets include picnic tables, playgrounds, roads, campgrounds and habitat enhancement area that require maintenance and upkeep. Natural Resources staff utilize mobile technology to collect the data and map the assets. This data will ensure that all assets are in good working order and will assist Natural Resources in identifying needs during its project development and planning process.

## Protecting Sensitive Resources

**PROJECT LEADS: BRIAN STEWART AND MARK MORRISSEY**

Off-road vehicles may be fun to ride, but they can damage sensitive resources and destroy natural habitats. TVA will create an access control system to prevent unauthorized use of OHV/ATVs (and trash dumping) to protect the sensitive resources and areas on public lands. TVA will also enact special access control measures at some dispersed lands sites at Chickamauga, Tims Ford and Normandy that are experiencing high levels of vehicle abuse.

## Keeping Trash Where it Belongs

**PROJECT LEAD: JOHN GRINSTEAD**

TVA will place more of the brown-painted, metal trash containers called "BearSavers" on dispersed recreational sites that get considerable public use. The sturdy containers are designed to keep trash where it belongs and keep nuisance animals from getting into it. County partnership agreements will keep the cans serviced and tidy.





# Land & Habitat Stewardship

Caring for the plants and wildlife on TVA lands requires a lot of care, research and expertise on the part of TVA and our partners to be successful. Through these efforts we can help ensure the region's beautiful and natural resources are protected for future generations.

## Wildlife Openings

**PROJECT LEAD: GARRY CHAPPELLE**

Wildlife openings are interruptions in forested landscapes that are attractive to wildlife and that often provide food or cover. They can take many forms. In some cases, they are simply forest roads that create linear travel routes for wildlife and people to access TVA land. Others are openings we've created in upland forests, which are then planted with native grasses and food sources to hold and enhance wildlife habitat. TVA will maintain existing wildlife openings, reduce exotic plant regrowth and improve overall forest health.

## Forest Enhancements

- TVA will partner with the University of Tennessee and their tree improvement program in the re-establishment of Norris area seed orchards to produce locally adapted tree seedlings for planting and reforestation efforts in east Tennessee.
- TVA will work to maintain the shortleaf pine communities at Tims Ford.
- TVA is taking steps to begin the oak and shortleaf pine restoration and enhancements inside the Lauderdale County Wildlife Management Area in Alabama.

**PROJECT LEAD: TIM PRUITT**

**PROJECT LEAD: KELVIN YOUNG**

**PROJECT LEAD: JOSH BURNETTE**

## Wildlife Habitat Improvements

- TVA will partner with Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency to enhance wildlife habitat and improve overall forest health on Duck, Thief Neck, Iron Hill, Huffine and Long islands on Watts Bar Reservoir. Management techniques will include prescribed burning and planting native vegetation.
- TVA will continue efforts to restore the glade and barrens habitats at Coon Gulf and Little Cedar Mountain by managing vegetation through mulching and prescribed burns.
- TVA will continue efforts to restore pine/savannah habitat by managing vegetation through mulching and prescribed burns. Bird surveys will be conducted after implementation.

**PROJECT LEAD: SCOTT LEDFORD**

**PROJECT LEAD: HEATHER HART**

**PROJECT LEAD: HEATHER HART**

## University of Tennessee Research on Native Plant Communities

**PROJECT LEAD: R.J. MOORE**

TVA and its partners at the University of Tennessee will evaluate plant communities and habitat quality following tall fescue eradication, and compare plant response from the seed bank and direct planting of native grasses and forbs. Information gathered can provide insight on pollinator possibilities associated with native plant communities.

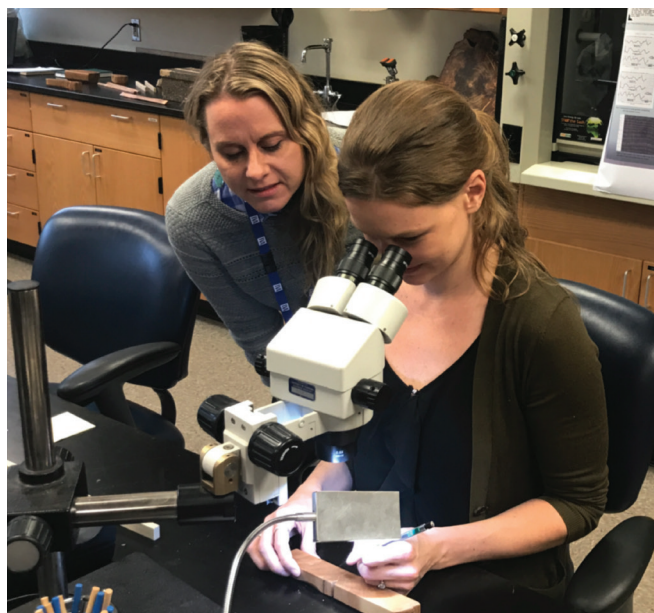
## West Sandy Drainage Rehabilitation

**PROJECT LEADS: KELVIN YOUNG**

TVA will partner with the West Tennessee River Basin Authority, Henry County, the USDA-Wildlife Services and Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency to remove fallen trees and other woody debris in and along the West Sandy drainage area. This project will provide water impoundment relief for adjacent property owners, local farmers and public land managers. TVA also will partner with USDA-WS to manage nuisance animals.







## Amphibian, Reptile and Small Mammal Surveys

PROJECT LEAD: HEATHER HART

TVA will conduct amphibian, reptile and small mammal surveys to identify occurrences and collect the information needed to guide decisions about habitat enhancement opportunities. Information gathered can also be shared with other agencies to support their conservation efforts.

## Caring for the Bats

PROJECT LEAD: HEATHER HART

The Tennessee Valley is home to some of the most extensive bat colonies in the world. TVA continues to look for ways to ensure that the bats have what they need to survive and thrive. Projects this year include:

- Twenty-five new artificial bat roosts will be installed throughout the Valley to provide habitat for the Indiana bat. We'll also monitor the artificial summer roosts already installed.
- TVA will conduct mist net surveys and use transmitters to track forest-dwelling bats and other bats that are considered at-risk species to identify occurrences and collect information to guide decisions about habitat enhancement. Data collected can be shared with other agencies to help guide conservation efforts and habitat decisions.

## Protecting Our Wetlands

PROJECT LEAD: HEATHER HART

Through this project we will gather data on high-priority wetlands at select TVA reservoirs to identify areas that may need additional protection. The data will also be beneficial to TVA Section 26a permitting requests by decreasing the need for additional surveys, and further help identify priority areas for conservation and natural resource management.

## Tennessee Valley Dendochronology Study

PROJECT LEAD: HEATHER HART

TVA is partnering with the University of Tennessee Knoxville to examine tree rings to gain information about past droughts. This information will extend TVA's drought record by several hundred years, and help us to better prepare for the potential droughts that may occur.

## Enhancement of Access to Public Lands

PROJECT LEADS: JOSH BURNETTE AND MARK MORRISSEY

TVA strives to provide good access to its public lands at Gunterville, Normandy, Nickajack and Chickamauga by enhancing entry roads and parking areas, and ensuring the TVA public lands are easily identified by signage.

## Our Feathered Friends

PROJECT LEAD: DAMIEN SIMBECK

- A partnership between TVA and Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership organization, International Crane Foundation, USGS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, state agencies and others has been established to support the restoration of a self-sustaining migratory population of whooping cranes in eastern North America.
- TVA will support the Wings of Winter Birding Festival that highlights avian biodiversity, which will include field trips to Stewart, Benton, and Humphreys Counties in Tennessee and Lyon Marshall, Calloway, and Livingston Counties in Kentucky throughout November and December.





# Nuisance and Invasive Species Management

Invasive species of all kinds represent one of the most significant threats to the Tennessee Valley's natural resources. Some species of plants or animals can be considered acceptable in some circumstances, but undesirable in others. Often, a non-native species will take advantage of the new climate and will flourish too much, crowding out the native species. This can be seen with plants in the water (Eurasian water milfoil, hydrilla, southern naiad), plants on the land (kudzu, privet) and even with certain animals.

Nature needs a careful balance. This is why aggressive removal can be just as undesirable as doing nothing. TVA works closely with its partner agencies, state and local governments, homeowners' associations and the public to monitor and control invasive species with a number of tried and true methods.

## Aquatic Plant Management

PROJECT LEAD: DAVID BREWSTER

Invasive and nuisance aquatic plant species have continued to spread throughout the Tennessee Valley. Each year, TVA's Aquatic Plant Management Program addresses new introductions of such species to slow or stop them before they become established. We also focus on management of established species near developed public access areas.

- TVA will continue to manage aquatic plants near developed, public shorelines throughout the Tennessee Valley on an as-needed basis. Additional efforts will support the management of new introductions on Watts Bar, Melton Hill, Ft. Loudon and other reservoirs as identified during the growing season.
- TVA will collaborate with other agencies to use triploid (sterile) grass carp to address new introductions of aquatic exotic and invasive plant species.

## Guntersville Stakeholder Partnership

PROJECT LEAD: DAVID BREWSTER

Guntersville Reservoir has a long history with nuisance aquatic plants. The shallow reservoir supports more than half of the Valley's 40,000 acres of aquatic plant growth. In 2019, the Lake Guntersville Stakeholder Board and TVA will continue to work together. TVA will continue to provide equipment to help manage aquatic plants and help the Guntersville group build capacity to manage aquatic plants.

## Plant Camp

PROJECT LEAD: DAVID BREWSTER

Each year, TVA hosts "Plant Camp," a multi-day workshop for teachers in the Tennessee Valley. The program provides information and materials about invasive plants and animals that can have significant impacts on the Valley's delicate ecosystems as well as its economy. Educators can then pass this information to their students.





## Invasive Vegetation Management

Invasive species can disrupt native habitats and interrupt recreational activities. This year, we're focusing on:

- Removing invasive vegetation such as kudzu on TVA public lands near Norris, South Holston and Chickamauga Reservoirs to enhance public access and wildlife habitat.

**PROJECT LEADS: RANDY SHORT AND MARK ODOM**

- Treating invasive plant species within TVA's Big Ridge Habitat Protection Area including lands adjacent to the associated trail. By removing these invasive plant species, native plants such as wildflowers will be able to establish in the area and enhance visitors' experience.

**PROJECT LEAD: MARK ODOM**

- Using insecticide to manage the spread of wooly adelgid on eastern hemlocks at TVA's Hemlock Bluff Small Wild Area.

**PROJECT LEAD: HEATHER HART**



## Raptor Nesting

**PROJECT LEAD: R.J. MOORE**

Osprey are striking birds, but they can cause problems when they nest in the wrong places. These large birds are fond of building nests on tall, manmade structures, which can include our transmission equipment. TVA will collaborate with Mississippi State University and other partners to conduct research on raptor nesting and work to discover how to discourage birds from establishing nests where we don't want them.



# Cultural Resources Management

Many of TVA's public lands include much more than the beauty of nature. They include a history of those who came before us. From the Native American tribes who settled here to Civil War skirmish sites and everything in between, the history and heritage of the Tennessee Valley is an important part of who we are. Unfortunately, much of our history has disappeared following years of development, erosion and even looting, making TVA's efforts to protect what we have left a critical part of its mission.

## Archaeological Site Stabilization Projects

PROJECT LEAD: ERIN PRITCHARD

Implement stabilization projects on Watts Bar and Chickamauga Reservoirs to protect archaeological resources.

## Muscle Shoals Animal House

PROJECT LEAD: ERIN PRITCHARD

TVA will work to complete the refurbishment of the "Animal House," which functioned as an insectarium and research facility on the Muscle Shoals Reservation. It was in operation in the 1940s when TVA was conducting experiments to help find new ways to control malaria outbreaks through the reduction of mosquito populations.

## Protecting Native American Heritage

PROJECT LEAD: TOM MAHER

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) requires TVA to inventory Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects and objects of cultural patrimony and repatriate those items to whom they belong.

- Human remains and funerary objects under TVA control and curated by the University of Tennessee will be evaluated and inventoried as necessary.
- TVA will conduct its fourth face-to-face consultation with Native American Tribes regarding the repatriation of NAGPRA cultural items currently stored at the University of Tennessee.
- TVA will continue into year five of a multi-year curation rehabilitation project to improve TVA collections obtained from Works Projects Administration Survey and curated at the University of Alabama. \*
- TVA will continue to inventory cultural items stored at the University of Alabama to support NAGPRA. Three previous phases have uncovered additional and unknown remains and funerary objects.

## Cherokee Removal Trail

PROJECT LEADS: MARK ODOM, MARIANNE SHULER

TVA will continue to partner with the City of Charleston, local organizations and agency partners to plan and develop the Trail of Tears segment located in Polk County, Tennessee. This collaborative effort supports tourism, local economic development and cultural stewardship. Through background research and mapping, TVA will document the locations and routes for the Trail of Tears on TVA lands and waterways. This project will help us manage a very sensitive resource that is considered sacred by federally recognized tribes.







## Preserving Painted Bluff

PROJECT LEAD: ERIN PRITCHARD

In 2014, TVA partnered with a restoration expert to remove and camouflage graffiti on prehistoric and historic rock art at Painted Bluff in northeast Alabama. This year we will evaluate the success of those graffiti removal and camouflage efforts, document any further damage and identify additional management needs for the site.

## Thousand Eyes Outreach Program

PROJECT LEAD: ERIN PRITCHARD

TVA's Thousand Eyes Archaeological Site Stewardship Program is an outreach program that trains volunteers to help federal and state agencies with monitoring and protecting archaeological sites in the Tennessee Valley. Volunteers participate in a two-day workshop and work with TVA archaeologists to monitor archaeological sites for vandalism, looting and environmental damage.

## Archaeological Research Initiative – Phase 2

PROJECT LEAD: MARIANNE SHULER

This is a multi-year effort to collect information on unique archaeological features that have been found on TVA land across the Valley. Previous efforts focused on using new technology to provide a more effective means to identify sensitive resources. This year's initiative will be to work with federally recognized tribes and other archaeologists to develop a plan to better interpret and manage them.

## Native Plants Partnership

PROJECT LEAD: ERIN PRITCHARD

TVA cultural and biological staff and Native American tribes are establishing a partnership to support the identification, propagation, harvesting and collecting of approved plants in what were once their homelands in the Tennessee Valley. Culturally important plant resources, such as river cane, thrive in the Tennessee Valley. However, since tribes were relocated outside of the Tennessee Valley, these important plants have not been readily available to them. Through this project TVA and the tribes will explore options to improve availability of culturally important plants.

## Preserving the Past

PROJECT LEAD: ERIN PRITCHARD

TVA will conduct identification surveys of historic properties on TVA lands pursuant to Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act, which calls on all federal agencies to pursue their missions in a way that preserves cultural and historical places and artifacts. Locations will be selected based on areas with high probability for archaeological sites. TVA's Section 110 data provides an inventory of sites that the agency is required to manage in a manner that maintains their integrity.





# Water Resources Stewardship

Water is the lifeblood that runs through the Tennessee Valley. The Tennessee River system is one of the most biologically diverse river systems in the world. Each year, TVA works with partners across the seven-state region to help protect this most precious resource and the aquatic life it supports. These efforts are designed to protect and enhance the river system.

## Supporting the Sturgeon

PROJECT LEAD: MARK ODOM

This is the fourth year of TVA's partnership with the Tennessee Aquarium and the Sturgeon Recovery Group. TVA's support makes it possible to increase the number of sturgeon that can be reared and stocked. We provide monitoring equipment and support both sturgeon research and public outreach.

## Tennessee River Aquatic Biodiversity Network

PROJECT LEAD: SHANNON O'QUINN

TVA will again host the Tennessee River Basin Aquatic Biodiversity Network meeting, which is held annually to bring together state and federal agencies; national and local conservation organizations; citizen-based watershed associations; municipalities and community groups; businesses; and universities that share a common goal of preserving the aquatic biodiversity of the Tennessee River basin. Participants will develop a Tennessee River Plan to enhance collaborative efforts to support aquatic biodiversity.

## Clinch/Powell Watershed Initiative

PROJECT LEAD: SHANNON O'QUINN

TVA is working with partners to improve aquatic biodiversity in the Clinch and Powell watersheds. These watersheds in the northeastern region of the Tennessee Valley are frequently recognized for their importance in aquatic biodiversity and habitat.

## Sickle Darter Reintroduction

PROJECT LEAD: SHANNON O'QUINN

TVA will partner with Knoxville-based Conservation Fisheries Inc. to propagate and reintroduce the sickle darter into the Little River.

## Stream Monitoring

PROJECT LEAD: SHANNON O'QUINN

Since the 1990s, TVA has assessed fish and other aquatic species to determine stream health across the Tennessee River watershed. This year, TVA will conduct its annual Index of Biological Integrity monitoring to assess streams and rivers throughout the system. TVA is also in year five of its Stream Sentinel Monitoring program, which works with federal and state partners to monitor stream sites in the watershed to track long-term trends, and assess and track potential biological, ecological and hydrological responses of aquatic ecosystems over time.

## Little Tennessee River Native Fish Conservation

PROJECT LEAD: SHANNON O'QUINN

TVA is working with more than 30 partners as part of the Little Tennessee River Native Fish Conservation Partnership to protect and improve aquatic species in the Little Tennessee River watershed. In 2019, the partnership will be working on removal of two stream barriers to native brook trout; the rearing and release of yellow fin madtom, smoky madtom, dusky darter and spotfin chubs in Tellico River; and the rearing and stocking of blotchside logperch in Abrams Creek.

## Paint Rock River Watershed Protection

PROJECT LEAD: SHANNON O'QUINN

TVA will work with The Nature Conservancy and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to establish approximately 70 acres of riparian buffer along the Paint Rock River in northern Alabama. Through the partnership, we will support the Alabama Aquatic Biodiversity Center with their efforts to assess, monitor, survey and reintroduce some of the most imperiled freshwater mussels in the Paint Rock River.





## Snail Darter Assessment

PROJECT LEAD: SHANNON O'QUINN

This is year three of TVA's effort to monitor for snail darters in the Tennessee River watershed. Building on this monitoring effort, we will work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and The Nature Conservancy to develop a monitoring protocol to support removal of the snail darter from threatened status.

## Tennessee Buffer Initiative

PROJECT LEAD: SHANNON O'QUINN

The Elk River Buffer Initiative has been very successful in establishing over 150 acres of riparian buffers since 2015. The Elk and the Duck River Partnership expanded the initiative to the Duck River in 2017 with hopes to expand the program across Tennessee.

## Community Tree Planting with the Tennessee Environment Council

PROJECT LEAD: SHANNON O'QUINN

To further enhance watershed health and buffers, TVA will support the Tennessee Environment Council community tree planting event.

## Tennessee River Shade Your Stream

PROJECT LEAD: SHANNON O'QUINN

In partnership with Mainspring Conservation Trust and several state agencies and organizations, we will work to expand the successful Shade Your Stream program from North Carolina to parts of northern Georgia and eastern Tennessee.

## Tennessee Valley Clean Marinas

PROJECT LEAD: MELINDA WATSON

The Tennessee Valley Clean Marina designation tells visitors that a marina cares—not only about their recreational enjoyment for today, but also about preserving the health of Valley lakes for generations to come. Marinas in this program are recognized by TVA for going beyond normal operations to protect the water resources they rely on to generate income.





# Recreation

At TVA, we're hardwired for fun—it's part of our mission. Recreation on TVA public lands and waters provides opportunities for visitors, residents, families and friends to enjoy the beauty of the Tennessee River watershed. From hiking trails to swim beaches, and from boat ramps to our universally accessible piers and picnic tables, we strive to work with partners across our service region to do the work that meets the greatest need. Our project list this year reflects our ongoing desire to provide quality recreation so that everyone in the Tennessee Valley has a chance to get out and PLAY!

## Public Land and Recreation Access Investments

Providing quality recreation means maintaining the assets we already have as well as making new upgrades and improvements to the public lands under our care. Each year, we work with federal, state and local partners across our seven-station region to support and fund recreation projects in the Tennessee Valley. This year, TVA plans to make the following upgrades at our dam reservations, reservoir lands and surrounding public areas:

### Apalachia

- TVA will construct a new ramp on Apalachia Reservoir, Hiwassee Dam Reservation to increase the public's access to the reservoir.

PROJECT LEAD: JIMMY LEMMOND

### Beech

- Preserve public land and the public launching ramp by stabilizing approximately 315 feet of failing retaining wall on the Beech Dam Reservation.
- Preserve the swim beach and picnic area adjacent to Beech Dam Reservation by stabilizing approximately 1,500 feet of failing retaining wall adjacent to it.

PROJECT LEAD: LESLEY WHITE

PROJECT LEAD: LESLEY WHITE

### Blue Ridge

- Install additional picnic tables and ADA parking spaces at the picnic site on the Blue Ridge Dam Reservation. We will also add kiosk and signage near the left bank parking area.

PROJECT LEAD: KERI CHARTRAND

### Boone

- Stabilize approximately 1,200 feet of shoreline on Boone Reservoir to protect the swim beach and launching ramp.

PROJECT LEAD: RANDY SHORT





### Cherokee

- Improve wildlife habitat and public access on TVA public lands around Cherokee Reservoir.  
**PROJECT LEADS: BRIAN STEWART, TIM PRUITT AND RANDY SHORT**
- Restore the river bottom vegetation along the bank of the Cherokee Reservoir and the adjacent open field to shore up the Hugh B. Day Access Area, which is heavily used. It's known in the region for quality fishing during the spring spawning season.  
**PROJECT LEAD: BRIAN STEWART**

### Chickamauga

- Partner with Hamilton County to provide needed environmental reviews and make improvements at Chester Frost Park near Chattanooga.  
**PROJECT LEAD: HEATHER SELLERS**
- Partner with TWRA and Ducks Unlimited to treat 25 to 30 acres of the invasive giant cutgrass in three areas to include TVA and TWRA managed sub-impoundments.  
**PROJECT LEAD: DAMIEN SIMBECK**
- Maintain the Charleston Cypress Tree Wetland wildlife viewing platform in Charleston, Tennessee in Bradley County.  
**PROJECT LEAD: MARK ODOM**

### Guntersville

- Work with partners to construct a new ramp and parking area for Guntersville Reservoir to improve lake access and safety on U.S. Highway 431 in Guntersville, Alabama in Marshall County.  
**PROJECT LEAD: JIMMY LEMMOND**
- Expand existing boat ramp and parking at Goose Pond Colony Marina, as well as make improvements to the courtesy pier and ADA-accessible ramp.  
**PROJECT LEAD: HEATHER SELLERS**
- Make upgrades to the Cave Mountain Trail to support public use and enjoyment of TVA trails.  
**PROJECT LEAD: JOSH BURNETTE**

### Hiwassee

- Partner with the City of Murphy to stabilize shoreline areas within Konehete Park.  
**PROJECT LEAD: KERI CHARTRAND**





### Kentucky

- Partner with Stewart County to provide picnic areas at Gray's Landing for the enjoyment of the public.

PROJECT LEAD: LESLEY WHITE

- Work to improve the very popular Hickory Park dispersed recreation area with road improvements and the addition of camping pads.

PROJECT LEAD: KELVIN YOUNG

- Maintain the Camden informal recreation sites for the public.

PROJECT LEAD: R.J. MOORE

- Work to maintain the Harmon Creek recreation sites for the public.

PROJECT LEAD: R.J. MOORE

- Perform upgrades and maintenance to support public enjoyment of the unique Lady's Bluff Trail.

PROJECT LEAD: EMBER ANDERSON

### Melton Hill

- Install new signs for the courtesy pier at the Melton Hill day use area.

PROJECT LEAD: DAVID FORSTER

- Replace the courtesy docks at both the tailwater and headwater launching ramps.

PROJECT LEAD: JIMMY LEMMOND

### Muscle Shoals

- Install new handrails and complete other trail maintenance activities on the Muscle Shoals Energy Trail.

PROJECT LEAD: DEREK SOUTH

- Install 800 feet of safety fence and barrier along lands adjacent to the very popular Waterfall Walk.

PROJECT LEAD: DEREK SOUTH

### Nickajack

- Expand the parking area associated with the Grand Canyon Boat Ramp to accommodate more boat trailer parking.

PROJECT LEAD: JIMMY LEMMOND

### Norris

- Replace the courtesy dock at Cove Creek B Ramp to improve fishing and boating access.

PROJECT LEAD: JIMMY LEMMOND

- Improve wildlife habitat and public access on TVA public lands around Norris Reservoir.

PROJECT LEADS: BRIAN STEWART, TIM PRUITT AND RANDY SHORT





### Pickwick

- Develop a forestry management plan to improve campground safety by reducing the pine stand within the Pickwick campground boundary in Hardin County, Tennessee.

PROJECT LEAD: DEREK SOUTH

- Provide access to TVA public lands by constructing an access road at Yellow Creek Port to support public enjoyment of TVA public lands.

PROJECT LEAD: JOHN GRINSTEAD

### South Holston

- Work to improve the fishing area at Morrell Depot Parking Area by creating ADA access.

PROJECT LEAD: JIMMY LEMMOND

- Improve wildlife habitat and public access on TVA public lands around South Holston Reservoir.

PROJECT LEADS: BRIAN STEWART, TIM PRUITT AND RANDY SHORT

### Tellico

- Expand the parking lot on the Tellico Dam Reservation to accommodate increased visitor use during peak season.

PROJECT LEAD: KERI CHARTRAND

- Improve wildlife habitat and maintain the East Lakeshore Trail and associated trailhead parking areas.

PROJECT LEAD: DARRELL CUTHBERTSON

### Tims Ford

- Stabilize approximately 200 feet of highly eroded bank that threatens the stream access site at the Shiloh Bridge on the Elk River.

PROJECT LEAD: DEREK SOUTH

### Watts Bar

- Repair the existing boat launching ramp to increase users' safety and enjoyment at Watts Bar Dam in Meigs County, Tennessee.

PROJECT LEAD: DAVID FORSTER

### Wheeler

- Construct an ADA fishing pier and small pavilion in the highly used tailwater area to provide additional amenities to the public.

PROJECT LEAD: DEREK SOUTH

- Partner with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to enhance existing trails at Joe Wheeler State Park by performing invasive species removal and rehabilitating the CCC overlook, multi-use trail, resort trail and bike trail as well as the south side cabins.

PROJECT LEAD: DEREK SOUTH

- Provide informal recreational opportunities at the Buck Island and Marbut Bend informal recreation sites, including wildlife viewing and walking trails. Maintain access to these areas.

PROJECT LEAD: DAMIEN SIMBECK

- Improve the Hatchett Road undeveloped recreation area to enhance visitors' experiences.

PROJECT LEAD: JOHN GRINSTEAD

### Wilson

- Work with local partners to maintain the Muscle Shoals Native Plant Garden associated with the Muscle Shoals Trail system.

PROJECT LEAD: DAMIEN SIMBECK

- Restore the old bathroom at the CCC pavilion on the Muscle Shoals Reservation so it will be available for public use.

PROJECT LEAD: JIMMY LEMMOND/ERIN PRITCHARD







## Scenic Floatways

PROGRAM LEAD: DEREK SOUTH

TVA will support water trail use by conducting routine maintenance of four stream access sites each at the Duck River Scenic Floatway and the Elk River Scenic Floatway. This maintenance will include vegetation management, signage replacement, danger tree removal, parking areas improvements and erosion control.

## Campground Improvements

PROJECT LEADS: SCOTT LEA, DAVID FORSTER AND JONATHAN MCNUTT

All six of TVA's dam reservation campgrounds are managed by the Recreation Resource Management (RRM) firm under a concessionaire agreement with TVA. Together, TVA and RRM will continue to make upgrades at the campgrounds and associated day use areas. In addition, TVA will remove trees that may pose hazards within the campgrounds.

## Tennessee Valley Camp-Right Campgrounds

PROJECT LEAD: AURORA PULLIAM

The Camp-Right Program is now in its fourth year of implementation, and we are excited to see it grow and benefit the environment and its many members. Through this program, we promote the benefits of sustainable camping on TVA public lands, and provide resources for owners to showcase their ecofriendly campground improvements and commitment to environmentally responsible practices. This year we will expand outreach efforts to include meetings for program participants and tours of local operators to highlight best practices.

## Dam Reservation Plaques

PROJECT LEAD: DEREK SOUTH

In a continuing effort to improve our dam reservations and enhance visitor experiences, the 1960s-era interpretive plaques, "The TVA System of Multi-Purpose Dams," and dedication plaques will be refurbished and returned to their original condition.

## TVA's Mobile Aquarium

PROJECT LEAD: KELVIN YOUNG

Many residents of the Tennessee Valley are surprised to see all the aquatic diversity living in their backyards. That's just what TVA's mobile aquarium shows them—traveling throughout the Valley and highlighting local aquatic life. This year, we'll work to maintain and promote TVA's mobile aquarium in order to highlight the aquatic biodiversity of the Tennessee River and provide learning opportunities for communities throughout the region.

## Dog Road Dispersed Recreation Enhancement

PROJECT LEAD: KELVIN YOUNG

TVA will enhance the undeveloped recreation area to enhance visitors' experiences.









# Ecotourism

TVA's public lands and shorelines have long provided a platform in support of tourism—as was brilliantly demonstrated by a recent University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture study that found the value of water-based recreation on TVA's reservoir system is \$11.9 billion a year. In recent years, nature-based recreation, outdoor adventure and sustainable tourism have increasingly been referred to as “ecotourism.” This combines outdoor recreation experiences with conservation-based work in extended travel destination experiences that contribute to local economies, job creation, private investment and expansion of the tax base. TVA's ecotourism program is designed to complement existing community, regional and state travel and tourism efforts, and it aligns with TVA's mission to help make the Valley a great place to live, work and play.

## Dam Explorer Program

PROJECT LEAD: TIFFANY FOSTER

TVA continues to work with local communities to plan and create visitor destinations on TVA dam reservations and surrounding areas by creating new or enhancing existing recreation facilities and developing interactive interpretative and hands-on learning areas. This year we will focus on enhancing experiences at Tellico and Ft. Loudoun dam reservations.

## National Geographic Tennessee River Valley Map Guide

PROJECT LEAD: TIFFANY FOSTER

TVA collaborates with partners in its seven-state service region to support and promote National Geographic's Tennessee River Valley Map Guide, which showcases the beauty and wonder of our natural resources and heritage, and promotes recreational opportunities across the Tennessee River Valley. The MapGuide is a great way to increase the visibility and tourism in the Valley.

## South Holston Dam Reservation Trail

PROJECT LEAD: RANDY SHORT

TVA will expand the existing trail system by developing approximately 6,000 feet of new trail. The new trail segment will take you from the picnic area/weir dam parking area upstream along the river to South Holston Dam, and open up additional river frontage for fishing, birdwatching and walking.

## Cherokee Dam Reservation Improvements

PROJECT LEAD: JONATHAN MCNUTT

TVA will expand existing parking area to support special events on the Cherokee Dam Reservation.

## Stream Access Use and Economic Impact Study

PROJECT LEAD: CLAY GUERRY

In this multi-year effort, TVA will assess its stream access sites in Georgia and North Carolina to determine their recreational visitation, expenditures and annual economic impacts.





# Public Outreach & Information

We partner to enhance and preserve our cultural and natural resources, and to increase recreational opportunities throughout the region. One of the most important things we can do to ensure these resources are protected for future generations is to engage visitors, residents, business leaders and others.

## Outdoor Store Partnerships

PROJECT LEAD: SUZANNE FISHER

TVA is partnering with outdoor retailers to provide information on the best places in the Valley to hike, bike and paddle. Through this initiative, we can increase awareness of recreational activities and opportunities at select TVA locations across the Valley.

## Volunteering with TVA

PROJECT LEAD: SUZANNE FISHER

TVA continues to grow its network of volunteers for maintaining trails, cleaning up shorelines, preserving historic sites and more. The goal of the volunteer program is to encourage people to join us in protecting public lands and have fun while doing it.

The Volunteer Program offers participation in Valley-wide event days, including National Trails Day and National Public Lands Day, as well as Adopt-a-Trail and Adopt-a-Spot experiences. TVA provides the resources, materials, training and support for volunteers to engage in fun and rewarding efforts that improve public lands.

## Tennessee RiverLine

PROJECT LEAD: TIFFANY FOSTER

TVA is participating in and supporting the Tennessee RiverLine partnership to engage Valley communities in an effort to develop and promote a continuous, multi-modal (paddle, hike, bike) system of outdoor recreation experiences along the 652-mile Tennessee River, which connects Tennessee, and Paducah, Kentucky. The trail will use existing facilities when available and work with communities to determine the feasibility and benefit of creating new recreation assets—such as river access points, pavilions, trails and camping areas on public lands—to create and enhance the continuous RiverLine.

## Wide World of Water

PROJECT LEAD: TIFFANY FOSTER

Through the TVA Science Kids World Water Monitoring Program, TVA engages elementary school children in science by providing water monitoring kits to selected schools and delivering in-class water-oriented educational programs. We also encourage teachers to enhance their experience by using the program's online resources, where they can log their classroom data and see how other children from around the world are using the program.







## Visitor Centers, Signs and Displays

PROJECT LEAD: TIFFANY FOSTER

TVA values the people visiting our public lands and we are striving to improve their experiences by upgrading visitor centers, creating interpretive signs and interactive displays, and sharing information about public lands and recreational opportunities.

## Community Outreach Support

PROJECT LEAD: PUBLIC OUTREACH STAFF

This initiative supports community initiatives related to environmental education, recycling, litter prevention and resource stewardship programs within the TVA service area and Tennessee River Watershed.

## TVA Explorer: River Trek

PROJECT LEAD: MELINDA WATSON

The TVA Explorer website is being created to provide school students an opportunity to explore TVA and the Tennessee River Valley from their desks. An interactive map of the Tennessee River Valley showcases the amazing natural resources in the Valley. Stops along the river give the visitor in-depth information about the flora and fauna living here and TVA efforts to protect and manage it.

## Citizen Science BioBlitz

PROJECT LEAD: MELINDA WATSON

The citizen science BioBlitz partnership with Discover Life in America uses expert naturalists and biologists to train volunteer participants to conduct biological inventories on TVA public lands. TVA will host these family-friendly events on its public lands, and will include opportunities to learn about the plants and animals in their natural habitats. These events will help increase awareness of TVA public lands and the natural resources we are entrusted with.

We will also use BioBlitz methodology and the iNaturalist app to extend our environmental outreach to schoolchildren and their teachers, helping them to discover plants and animals on their school grounds or in public parks.

## Highlighting Aquatic Diversity

PROJECT LEADS: SHANNON O'QUINN, KELVIN YOUNG

TVA increases awareness of the value of clean water, aquatic resources and TVA's efforts to protect the resources through hands-on learning events across the region.







[www.tva.com/environment](http://www.tva.com/environment)

TVA's Public Land Information Center (PLIC) is your single source for answers to questions about a variety of public land topics including recreational opportunities, shoreline permits and volunteering. Email [PLIC@tva.gov](mailto:PLIC@tva.gov) or call (800) 882-5263 between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. ET.